THE HON'BLE SRI JUSTICE V.ESWARAIAH

W.P.No.8036 of 2006

Dt.21.4.2006

Between:

Maddirala Venkateshwara Rao … Petitioners

And another

And

The Commissioner, Municipal Corporation of

Kakinada, East Godavari District and another

…Respondents

ORDER:

Petitioners question the action of the respondents in widening the roads by demolishing the petitioners' buildings bearing D.Nos.13-1-44 and 5-1-62 respectively situated at the Main Road, Kakinada, East Godavari District, without issuing any notice under the provisions of Sections 146 or 147 of the Hyderabad Municipal Corporations Act, 1955 without paying any compensation under the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act as illegal and arbitrary.

Petitioners are the absolute owners and possessors of the building bearing

D.Nos.13-1-44 and 5-1-62 respectively situated on the Main Road, Kakinada, East Godavari District. While so, the first respondent Municipal Corporation has taken road widening programme with a view of ease the traffic congestion and thereby ensure free flow of traffic. Accordingly, the 2nd respondent has got the markings made on all the buildings and structures on either side of the roads popularly known as Main Road, Raja Rammohan Roy Road, Jawahar Street, Temple Street etc., and the demarcation was made to an extent of 15 to 17 feet on either side and on other roads it was about 10 feet on either side. It is stated that the respondent Corporation has already marked the effected portions for demolishing the structures of the petitioners without issuing any notice either under Section 146 and 147 of the Hyderabad Municipal Corporation Act, 1955 or a notice under the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894.

Heard the learned counsel for the petitioner as well as the standing counsel on behalf of the respondents.

The learned counsel for the petitioners submits that the respondents without issuing any notice and without initiating any proceedings and without paying any compensation trying to demolish the buildings of the petitioners for widening of road. The learned counsel for the petitioners further submits that the action of the respondents without following the due procedure prescribed under law and without paying any compensation either by way of private negotiations or by way of initiating proceedings under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 is utter violation of the principles of natural justice as well as Sections 146 or 147 of the Hyderabad Municipal Corporations Act, 1955 (for short 'the Act').

No doubt widening/laying of the road is in the public interest but while laying the road, if any property of private individual is coming in the way, it is for the respondents to acquire the same either by way of initiating land acquisition proceedings or by following due process of law. This Court disposed of number of writ petitions directing the respondents not to demolish the property of the private citizens without following due process of law.

Having regard to the facts and circumstances of the case, this writ petition is disposed of directing the respondents not to demolish the structures or take away any portion of the property of the petitioners without following due process of law either under Sections 146 or 147 of the Act or by private negotiations or by initiating

the proceedings under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894. No costs.

V.ESWARAIAH, J.

April 21, 2006.

kpr